



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

February 9, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – ALANNAH
GROUP HOMES, INCORPORATED-RAINBOW RIDGE AND VAL VISTA
GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Rainbow Ridge and Val Vista Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Alannah Group Homes, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Rainbow Ridge and Val Vista Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Rainbow Ridge Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children. Val Vista Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

Rainbow Ridge and Val Vista Group Homes are located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to complete repairing the walls and develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals.

Rainbow Ridge Group Home needs to repair the bathroom faucet; paint the walls in the hallway and in bedroom four; and remove the graffiti writing from the closet door and dresser in bedroom two.

Val Vista Group Home needs to paint the walls and doors throughout the Group Home and replace the worn caulk along the baseboards in the bathroom.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Ruth McDonald, Executive Director, Alannah Group Homes
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Alannah Group Homes, Incorporated
Rainbow Ridge Group Home
40 Rainbow Ridge
Pomona, California 91766
Phone: (909) 469-0643
License Number: 19780399
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Rainbow Ridge Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the faucet is broken in the upstairs bathroom and the walls in the hallway have unfinished patch work.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, in bedroom two, the dresser and closet door are stained and have writing on them. In bedroom four, the walls have unfinished patch work.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Alannah Group Home management:**
 - a. Repair or replace the bathroom faucet.**
 - b. Complete repairs and paint the walls in the hallway, and in bedroom four.**

- c. **Refinish or replace the dresser and closet door in bedroom two.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

2. **Alannah Group Home management develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Alannah Group Home
Val Vista Group Home
1426 Val Vista
Pomona, California 91766
Phone: (909) 622-7706
License Number: 197803099
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Val Vista Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the walls and doors throughout the Group Home have unfinished patch work and the caulk along the baseboards in the bathroom is worn.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

- 1. Alannah Group Home management:**
 - a. Complete repairs and paint the walls and doors throughout the Group Home as needed.**
 - b. Replace the bathroom floor caulk.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

2. **Alannah Group Home management develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

Alannah Group Homes

**40 Rainbow Ridge
Pomona Ca 91766
(909) 469-0643
License: 197803099**

Recommendations 1:

I - Implementation: Facility and Environment

Recommendations for the following: (1) repair or replace bathroom faucet, (2) repair and paint the walls in the hallways and in bedroom # 4, and (3) refinish or replace the dresser and closet door in bedroom # 2, will be repair or replaced in the month of November by Alannah maintenance man.

M - Maintain:

Facility managers and counselors will conduct daily or weekly physical plant checks to assure that the facility is up to par according to regulations and DCFS requirements, and will update the Director of all repairs. All major repairs will be completed by Alannah maintenance man.

M - Monitor:

Director will follow up with Facility managers and counselors at the beginning of each week to assure that a daily or weekly check is being conducted.

Recommendations 2:

I - Implementation: Program Services

Recommendations for the following: (1) Develop a comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals, will be addressed with Alannah Behavioral Specialist and will be incorporated as new consumers NSP's and Quarterly review are updated.

M - Maintain:

All NSP's will be completed and all needed information will be done by Alannah Behavioral Specialist as reports are in a need for updating.

M - Monitor:

Director will continue to review all consumers NSP's reports and addressed any missing information with Alannah Behavioral Specialist before faxing out to consumers CSW.

1426 Val Vista Street
Pomona Ca 91767
(909) 622-7706
License: 197803081

Recommendations 1:

I – Implementation: Facility and Environment

Recommendations for the following: (1) complete patch work to the walls and doors throughout the group home (GH) as needed and (2) replace bathroom floor caulking will be repair or replaced in the month of November by Alannah maintenance man.

M – Maintain:

Facility managers and counselors will conduct daily or weekly physical plant checks to assure that the facility is up to par according to regulations and DCFS requirements, and will update the Director of all repairs. All major repairs will be completed by Alannah maintenance man.

M – Monitor:

Director will follow up with Facility managers and counselors at the beginning of each week to assure that a daily or weekly check is being conducted.

Recommendations 2:

I – Implementation: Program Services

Recommendations for the following: (1) Develop a comprehensive NSPs that are specific, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short and long term goals, will be addressed with Alannah Behavioral Specialist and will be incorporated as new consumers NSP's and Quarterly review are updated.

M – Maintain:

All NSP's will be completed and all needed information will be done by Alannah Behavioral Specialist as reports are in a need for updating.

M – Monitor:

Director will continue to review all consumers NSP's reports and addressed any missing information with Alannah Behavioral Specialist before faxing out to consumers CSW.

Sincerely
Alex Martinez
GH Director
November 1, 2006

 11/1/06